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1: [Heart Dis. 2002 Jan-Feb;4\(1\):18-25.](#)

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Neointima formation after stent implantation in an experimental model of restenosis: polytetrafluoroethylene-covered versus uncovered stainless steel stents.

Sick PB, Brosteanu O, Niebauer J, Hehrlein C, Schuler G.

Heart Center, Department for Internal Medicine/Cardiology, University of Leipzig, Germany. sickp@medizin.uni-leipzig.de

The aim of the study was to assess whether stents covered with a membrane of polytetrafluoroethylene spanned over the meshes of a sandwich-configured double stent ($n = 15$) prevent migration of smooth muscle cells through stent spaces, leading to less neointima formation compared with uncovered stainless steel stents ($n = 14$) in iliac arteries of male Chinchilla Bastard rabbits ($n = 18$). Lumen stenosis was assessed by quantitative angiography immediately before the animals were killed 5 weeks after stent deployment. Neointima formation was quantified by histomorphometric analysis. There were large regional and individual differences in neointima formation, leading locally to a significantly higher degree of stenosis in covered stents (histologically, 76.0 ± 13.7 vs. $62.9 \pm 12.9\%$; angiographically, 33.5 ± 21.1 vs. $7.8 \pm 8.8\%$) compared with uncovered stents, though mean neointimal and lumen area values were not significantly different. In conclusion, polytetrafluoroethylene-covered stents do not prevent neointima formation compared with uncovered stents. Although the membrane reduces local smooth muscle cell migration, the neointima hyperplasia at the proximal and distal ends of a covered stent stimulates migration along its longitudinal axis. In this stent-restenosis model, regional and individual proliferation processes and not the membrane-covering strut-to-strut distances determine lumen restenosis.

PMID: 11975828 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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